

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3545

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14598

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: EC'S TINDEMANS' VISITS ROME

SUMMARY: EC'S "WISEMAN" LEO TINDEMANS FLEW OFF TO BRUSSELS OCTOBER 6 AFTER A BUSY FOUR DAY VISIT WHICH LEFT HIM "RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC" AS TO THE PROSPECTS FOR EUROPEAN UNION, AND PERSUADED OF ITALIAN ENTHUSIASM FOR ADVANCEMENT IN THAT DIRECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. BELGIAN PRIMIN TINDEMANS CROWDED A WIDE RANGE OF CONSULTATIONS INTO HIS ROMAN STAY AND FOUND JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY APPROVING, IN PRINCIPLE, OF FURTHER STEPS
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TOWARD EUROPEAN UNION, EVEN THOUGH IMPRECISELY

DEFINED AND MUCH QUALIFIED BY THE OPTICS OF THE BEHOLDERS.

2. ACCORDING TO MFA DIRGEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, AMB. PLAJA, ITALIAN OFFICIALS PRESENTED THEIR VIEWS "PERSONALLY", AND NOT AS OFFICIAL GOI POSITIONS, TO TINDEMANS. THE ONE APPARENT EXCEPTION TO THIS WAS OFFICIAL AGREEMENT FAVORING A EUROPEAN BICAMERAL PARLIAMENT, TO BE COMPOSED OF A "CAMERA DEI POPOLI" TO BE ELECTED THROUGH UNIVERSAL DIRECT SUFFRAGE ON A PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM, AND A "CAMERA DEGLI STATE" WITH EQUAL REPRESENTATION FROM EACH STATE, WITH FUNCTIONS MORE COMPARABLE TO THE BUNDESTAG AND BUNDESRAT THAN TO THE US CONGRESS. BOTH PRIMIN MORO AND FONMIN RUMOR EMPHASIZED A GRADUAL "PRAGMATIC" APPROACH TO EUROPEAN UNION, WHICH RUMOR DEFINED AS COMPRISING "THE FULL REALIZATION OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION AND THE FUSION OF FOREIGN POLICIES." BOTH STATESMEN NOTED THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE COMMISSION'S EXECUTIVE, WHILE MAINTAINING IN THE TRANSITORY PERIOD THE CURRENT ROLE OF THE COUNCIL.

3. TINDEMANS MET WITH LEADERS OF THE DC, PCI, PSI, PSDI, PRI AND PLI. MSI SECRETARY ALMIRANTE, ISSUED A PUBLIC COMPLAINT AGAINST THE "DISCRIMINATORY NATURE" OF THESE CONSULTATIONS WHICH EXCLUDED THE MSI (AND CISNAL UNION) DESPITE THE MSI'S LONGTERM "POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO EUROPEAN UNITY".

--THE DC WAS FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, AND IS READY TO HELP CREATE A EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY. "A MORE DIRECT TIE BETWEEN COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS AND THE CITIZENS AND SOCIAL-POLITICAL FORCES MUST BE STRESSED."

--THE PCI (BERLINGUER) WAS INSISTENT THAT THE EEC'S POLICY BE UNEQUIVOCALLY ANTI-FASCIST, SHOULD ISOLATE THE FRANCO REGIME AND SUPPORT "ALL THE DEMOCRATIC FORCES" IN SPAIN. THE PCI WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN "ADVANCED, DEMOCRATIC, COMMUNITARY (SIC) EUROPE...WILL HAVE TO BE PROFOUNDLY DEMOCRATIC" AND RESPONSIVE TO THE INTERESTS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE URGENT AREAS OF

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ENERGY, REGIONAL POLICY, INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND AGRICULTURE. THE PCI IS ENGAGED IN ALL PROBLEM AREAS, "CONSCIOUS OF OUR ITALIAN AND EUROPEAN RESPONSIBILITY". BERLINGUER IN HIS PUBLIC COMMENTS CAREFULLY STEERED AWAY FROM ANY ENDORSEMENT OF UNITY IN EUROPE, PREFERRING TO SUBSTITUTE COMMUNITY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PCI OFFICIALS FOUND TINDEMANS TO BE "IMPRESSIVE", REALISTIC, WITH HIS "FEET ON THE GROUND".

--THE PSI (DE MARTINO) STRESSED THE NEED
"TO ASSURE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE POPULAR MASSES"
AND "THE AUTONOMY OF EACH STATE, IN REGARD TO ITS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE" SO THAT, FOR EXAMPLE,
SHOULD ITALY MOVE TO A SOCIALIST FORM OF ORGANIZATION,
"THIS WOULD NEITHER IMPEDE, NOR BE IMPEDED BY, THE
CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE."

--THE PSDI (TANASSI) PUSHED A PROPAGANDA PROGRAM
AT ALL LEVELS DESIGNED TO MAKE "EUROPE" THE PRIMARY
POLITICAL OBJECTIVE. THE PRI WANTED TO STRENGTHEN
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WHICH WOULD "HAVE THE LAST
WORD ON IMPORTANT PROBLEMS WHEN THERE ARE DIVERGENCIES
WITH THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS." THE PLI FELT
EUROPEAN STATES CANNOT SOLVE MAJOR PROBLEMS INDIVIDUALLY
AND THAT A UNITED EUROPE CLOSELY TIED TO THE US COULD
HANDLE THE JOB.

4. TINDEMANS MET AT LUNCH WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE MAJOR LABOR UNIONS (EXCLUDING FAR-RIGHT CISNAL)
AND, THE FOLLOWING DAY, WITH MAJOR FIGURES IN FINANCE
AND INDUSTRY.

--CGIL, CISL AND UIL ALL SUPPORTED "THE IDEA
OF EUROPE" BUT REQUESTED A LARGER REPRESENTATION FOR
UNIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL., COORDINATION
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK AND THE VAR-
IOUS COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDS, AND GREATER EUROPEAN MONE-
TARY COOPERATION.

-- TINDEMANS MET WITH TOP REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
BANK OF ITALY (BAFFI), ENI (PRESIDENT SETTE),
IRI (PRESIDENT PETRILLI), CONFAGRICOLTURA (PRESIDENT
DIANA), ASSOBANCARIA (PRESIDENT ARCAINA), CONFINDUSTRIA
(MASTRONE) AND CONFCOMMERCIO (SAVINI). UNLIKE THEIR
POLITICAL AND UNION COUNTERPARTS, THESE GENTLEMEN HAVE
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YET TO COMMENT PUBLICALLY ON WHAT THEY TOLD TINDEMANS.

5. AMBASSADOR PLAJA COMMENTED TO THE DCM THAT
TINDEMANS HAD SAID HE HAD FOUND, IN PRIOR CONSULTATIONS,
THE BRITISH LUKEWARM, SOME BUT NOT ALL QUARTERS OF
THE FRG ENTHUSIASTIC, AND THE FRENCH POSITION
HEDGED. THE LOW COUNTRIES ARE PRO, AND HE HAS YET TO
VISIT DENMARK.

6. TINDEMANS HAD A PRIVATE AUDIENCE WITH POPE PAUL,
BUT TO DATE NO REPORT OF THEIR CONVERSATIONS HAS
REACHED US.

7. COMMENT: TINDEMANS VISIT MUST BE CLASSIFIED A
SUCCESS, AN UNEVENTFUL ONE, EVEN IF GUAGED ONLY BY

THE CROSS-SECTION OF ITALIANS CONSULTED. THE
ATMOSPHERE WAS WARM, AND TINDEMANS MUST HAVE TAKEN
SOME COMFORT IN FINDING THAT ITALY IS INDEED
FERVENTLY EUROPEAN, EVEN IF IN MANY CASES "EN PRINCIPE."
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